Weston Brain Institute
International Outstanding Achievement Award 2020
Sample Nomination Form

Deadline for nominations: June 25, 2020
Award announcement ceremony: November 2020

This nomination form is an example only. Do not complete this paper form.
Please submit your nomination online through the Institute’s grant management system at https://westonfdn.smartsimple.ca/s_Login.jsp

Award description
The Weston Brain Institute International Outstanding Achievement Award was created to recognize and highlight the recent outstanding contributions of researchers to the global effort to fight neurodegenerative diseases of aging.

The award is presented once a year, and nominee eligibility alternates between Canadian-based researchers and those based in Ireland, the Netherlands and the UK.

Past awardees include Dr. Peter St George-Hyslop (2016, Canada), Professor Nick Fox (2017, UK), Dr. Anthony E. Lang (2018, Canada) and Professor Clive Ballard (2019, UK).

In 2020, the award will be honoring a Canadian-based researcher for recent contributions in translational research in neurodegenerative diseases of aging.

- The work must be translational research (i.e. development of therapeutics from target validation to clinical trials, or development of tools to accelerate therapeutic development).
- Nominee must have made significant advances in translational research, in particular in the past 15 years and be still actively doing research in this field.
- Nominee must have demonstrated remarkable leadership.
- Nominee must have a record of impeccable citizenship in the research community and positive societal contributions.

Future awards:
Weston Brain Institute International Outstanding Achievement Award 2021
- For a researcher based in Ireland, the Netherlands, or the UK.
- In support with the Selfridges Group and provided by SHEL Holdings Europe Limited.

Eligibility questionnaire
1) Is the nominee being nominated for exceptional contributions in translational research that have accelerated the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging? Please note that the nominee will be evaluated based on their contributions in translational research. While this research may be in any disease, only the impact on accelerating the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging will be considered. Please see below for the Institute’s definition of neurodegenerative diseases of aging and translational research.
2) Is the candidate being nominated for exceptional contributions to accelerate the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging made in the past 15 years? Please note that this is NOT a lifetime achievement award. In the selection process, greater emphasis (weight – 70% of the score for research contributions) will be placed on contributions that have occurred in the past 15 years. Contributions that occurred more than 15 years ago, and the potential of a nominee’s future work will also be taken into account in the overall score for ‘Research contributions’ (weight – 15% each for past and future contributions).

3) Is the nominee presently leading translational research on neurodegenerative diseases of aging with a current full-time appointment/position and have an appointment at a Canada Revenue Agency qualified donee institution in Canada? Individuals who have retired/have Emeritus status are not eligible for this award.

4) Barring any unforeseen circumstances, will the nominee have a full-time position in research and be engaged in translational research to accelerate the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging for the next 5 years? The award is for an individual who has a full-time appointment and will be active in translational research in neurodegenerative diseases of aging for the next 5 years or more.

5) Has the nominee performed >50% of his/her relevant research and leadership contributions in the past 15 years in Canada? The 2020 award is intended for a Canadian-based researcher. An individual is not eligible if greater than 50% of the relevant contributions from the past 15 years occurred outside of Canada.

6) Is the nominee currently working in Canada >50% of the time, and is at or above the assistant professor or equivalent level? The 2019 award is intended for a Canadian-based researcher. Individuals working outside of Canada >50% of the time are not eligible.

7) Are you able to offer a positive recommendation for the nominee’s societal contributions and citizenship in the research community?

8) Has the nominee been a past recipient of the Weston Brain Institute International Outstanding Achievement Award? Past awardees are not eligible. Previous winners are Dr. Peter St George-Hyslop, Professor Nick Fox, Dr. Anthony E. Lang, and Professor Clive Ballard.

9) Are you nominating someone other than yourself? Self-nominations are not permitted.

Institute definitions

Neurodegenerative diseases of aging:

- Alzheimer’s disease
- Dementia with Lewy bodies
- Frontotemporal dementia
- Multiple system atrophy
- Parkinson’s disease
- Progressive supranuclear palsy
- Vascular contributions to the above diseases (not stroke-mediated vascular disease)
- Prodromes to the listed diseases, including
  - Mild cognitive impairment as prodromal to Alzheimer’s disease
  - REM sleep behaviour disorder as prodromal to Parkinson’s disease

A nominee’s work may relate to any disease(s) but will be evaluated solely based on its impact on the above diseases.

The Institute defines translational research to be:
Applied research towards developing therapeutics for the prevention and/or treatment of human disease. For example, for small molecule drug development, this includes target validation to phase II clinical trials. Basic/discovery research, including, but not limited to, understanding disease mechanisms and discovering genes implicated in disease, is not in scope.

The Institute defines **therapeutics** to be:
A pharmacological approach (including small molecules, biologics, cell therapies and vaccines, including drug repositioning and repurposing), medical device, surgical intervention, or magnetic/electrical brain stimulation. Therapeutics can be for symptomatic relief, disease modification, or prevention. Complementary approaches such as exercise, acupuncture, music, dietary and nutritional supplements are not considered therapeutics. Identification of novel therapeutics is in scope (e.g., high throughput compound screens); however, identification of novel therapeutic targets, including genes implicated in disease, is not in scope.

The Institute defines **tools** to be:
An item that accelerates development of therapeutics, e.g., imaging techniques or reagents, biomarkers, and diagnostics.

- Tools must have direct impact on the translational development of therapeutics (as defined by the Institute, i.e., target validation to phase II clinical trials) and will be valued only on their ability to do this. Any value the tools contribute to basic research will not be taken into consideration. For example, tools will not be valued for their ability to identify new targets or understand disease mechanisms.
- Projects covering only the discovery/identification of a tool are out of scope.

**Evaluation criteria**
An award jury will review nominees that meet all eligibility requirements. The following criteria will be used to evaluate applications for this Program:

- **Research contributions** (weight - 75%): The nominee must have accelerated the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging through exceptional contributions to translational research. In the selection process, greater emphasis (weight - 70%) will be placed on contributions that have occurred in the past 15 years. Contributions that occurred more than 15 years ago, and the potential of a nominee’s future work will also be taken into account in the overall score for ‘Research contributions’ (weight – 15% each for past and future contributions).

Examples of research contributions include, but are not limited to:
- The nominee’s work has resulted in the development of new therapies for neurodegenerative diseases of aging (Note: Nominee’s work may relate to any disease(s) but will be evaluated based on its impact on neurodegenerative diseases of aging, as defined by the Institute.)
- The nominees’ findings have enabled earlier and/or more accurate diagnosis of the disease, or better ways of tracking disease course or monitoring treatment effects.
- Receiving national and international awards, and having a track record of competitive extramural funding.
- The nominee’s research has been recognized internationally as being of the highest quality (e.g. numerous publications in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals).
- **Leadership contributions** (weight – 25%): The nominee must have a record of exceptional leadership in translational research for accelerating the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging.

Examples of leadership contributions include, but are not limited to:

- Contributing significantly to the mentorship and training of the next generation of researchers in this field.
- Using leadership positions in the field to spur organizations to unusual levels of achievement.
- Establishing or leading international consortiums or collaborative projects to accelerate research in the field.

A nominee’s societal contributions and citizenship will be taken into account if all else (i.e., scientific and leadership contributions) is considered equal among the top candidates.

Examples of societal contributions and citizenship include, but are not limited to:

- Demonstrating an exceptional level of empathy and concern for patients and their families through efforts at improving their quality of life.
- Being collaborative and actively sharing resources.
- Respecting and acknowledging the scientific contributions of peers including those that may be in competition with the nominee.
- Working to advance disease awareness and patient education.

An award will not be given if the award jury determines that there is no suitable candidate.

**SECTION A: Personal details**
Please note that we do not accept group nominations. Separate nomination forms must be completed for each nominee.

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**SECTION B: Description of the nominee’s accomplishments**
Please provide information on the nominee’s research, leadership, and societal contributions by answering the following questions.

1) How have the nominee’s scientific contributions in **translational research** accelerated the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging? How will the nominee’s future work contribute to translational research for the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging? (max. **500 words**).

**Please note that this is **NOT** a lifetime achievement award. In the selection process, greater emphasis (70% weight of the score for research contributions) will be placed on contributions that have occurred in the past 15 years. Contributions that occurred more 15 years ago, and the potential of a nominee’s future work will also be taken into account in the overall score for ‘Research contributions’ (15% weight each for past and future contributions).**

2) What evidence of leadership has the nominee displayed? (e.g., has the nominee contributed significantly to the mentorship and training of the next generation of researchers (e.g., graduate students, post-docs) in the field? Has the nominee used leadership positions in the field to spur organizations to unusual levels of achievement? Has the nominee established or led international consortiums or collaborative projects to accelerate research in the field?) (max. **200 words**)

3) Compared to peers and other potential nominees, why is the nominee’s work particularly distinctive? (max. **200 words**)

4) What societal contributions and evidence of citizenship has the nominee had throughout their career? (e.g., does the nominee respect and acknowledge the scientific contributions of peers including those that may be in competition with him/her? Is the nominee collaborative (e.g. actively shares resources)? Has the nominee demonstrated an exceptional level of empathy and concern for patients and their families through efforts at improving their quality of life? Has the nominee worked to advance disease awareness and patient education?) (max. **200 words**)

**SECTION C: Supporting documentation**

The following is a list of documents that the nominator will provide through the online grant management system before the deadline on **June 25th, 2020**:

1. Nominee’s CV (up to 10 pages)
2. A list of the nominee’s top 10 high impact publications from the past 15 years that support the case for nomination. Please provide full citations with PMID and hyperlinks (max. 2 pages).
3. Nominee’s future research plan (1 page)
4. Completed Nominee Release form

Additionally, the nominator will send the Reference Letter Guidelines to up to 2 referees to submit reference letters directly to Cristina Tang (cristina.tang@westonbrain.org) and Megan McCafferty (megan.mccafferty@westonbrain.org) by the nomination deadline (June 25th, 2020).